

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
June 2, 2015

STATE STRAWBERRY GROWERS OVERCOME WEATHER CHALLENGES, PREDICT ROBUST CROP

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

Alternately kicking up bone-dry field dust and dodging the spray of irrigation lines as she walked through one of her strawberry fields in Glastonbury, it didn't take Sandi Rose long to find some of the first ripe berries of the season.

"Oh, that's good," Rose said late last week as she bit into a variety called Wendy she had just picked under an intense mid-afternoon sun at her Rose's Berry Farm. "When they're warm like this it really brings out the flavor."

Strawberry growers around the state were busy last week preparing for the start of the picking season that, for most, begins this weekend and will be in full swing by mid-June.

The dry spring has left many farmers more dependent on irrigation than usual, but overall growing conditions have been good.

Last winter's heavy snowpack actually served to protect the plants, and the cool spring that delayed fieldwork quickly turned around during a warmer-than-normal May.

The significant rainfall that fell in much of the state over the last few days allowed the irrigation equipment be shut off for a bit, adding to the optimism for a robust season.

"Crop looks real good so far," said Patty Sandness of Buell's Orchard in Eastford. "The heavy snow made a nice blanket to protect the berry plants from the subzero temps we had this winter. We had been irrigating for a few weeks but rainfall total (Sunday and Monday) came to over 2 inches so that should help them to size up nicely."

Sandness is a fourth-generation descendant of Henry Buell, who started the orchard in 1889. She said strawberries are a finicky crop that require near-constant attention as the typical 3-week picking season approaches.

"They need plenty of water but not so many wet days that they start to grow fungus and rot in the field," she said. "If we get a heavy rain right when they're ripe and ready to pick, they can absorb too much water and get mushy. Plus the rain keeps the customers away so they're not picked in a timely manner. When they're ripe, they need to be picked that day. Some fruits can hang for a few days, but not strawberries."

The agriculture department and the USDA are promoting the state's strawberry crop this month on several state broadcast and internet radio stations, as well the agency's Facebook page and its website at www.CTGrown.gov/strawberry.

In Shelton, Terry Jones is entering his 51st season of growing berries at his Jones Family Farm.

"There was no frost injury this spring," he said. "We did need to irrigate regularly throughout May and the crop was off to a late start, but the warm weather has allowed us to catch up. It looks like we will have our usual start to picking the first week of June and we are excited and optimistic that this will be a bumper



Sandi Rose picks some of the season's first ripe strawberries at her Rose's Berry Farm in Glastonbury.

crop."

At Roses' farm stand on busy Hebron Avenue last Friday, a series of cars rolled slowly through the gravel lot, scanning the offerings and leaving when the occupants apparently didn't see what they came for.

"Everybody's looking for strawberries," Rose said as she watched a car make a U-turn out of the lot.

She expects to have pre-picked berries ready for sale this weekend, with the popular pick-your-own likely starting next week.

The farm, which also raises blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, vegetables, pumpkins and Christmas trees, was one of the state's first pick-your-own farms starting in the late 1960s.

She has a dozen acres planted in strawberries, which are sold at 14 farmers' markets statewide, as well as to farm stands, wholesale buyers and supermarkets.

Over three decades working and managing the fields, she has refined her growing techniques to try to maximize the short growing season. Strawberries ideally need an inch or two of water a week, she said, which in dry times can produce hefty bills from the Metropolitan District Commission.

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PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	LOW	HIGH
breakers 75-80% lean	105.50	112.00
boners 80-85% lean	106.50	113.50
lean 85-90% lean	97.50	108.00
CALVES graded bull		
No 1 114-128 lbs	470.00	510.00
No 1 102-112 lbs	545.00	565.00
No 1 94-100 lbs	580.00	595.00
No 1 80-92 lbs	600.00	635.00
No 2 112-128 lbs	470.00	500.00
No 2 98-110 lbs	530.00	547.00
No 2 88-96 lbs	560.00	595.00
No 2 80-86 lbs	685.00	685.00
No 3 100-130 lbs	495.00	520.00
No 3 90-98 lbs	540.00	480.00
No 3 72-88 lbs	630.00	660.00
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
HiCh/Prm 3-4	162.00	166.50
Ch2-3	157.50	162.50
Sel1-3	150.00	160.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
HiCh/Prm 3-4	147.00	149.00
Ch2-3	139.00	147.00
Sel1-2	130.00	141.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
HiCh/Prm3-4	161.00	164.50
Ch2-3	156.00	160.00
Sel1-2	151.00	155.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:		
40-50 lbs	245.00	255.00
60-110 lbs	250.00	272.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: 2-3		
100-160 lbs	86.00	96.00
160-300 lbs	80.00	96.00
BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	80.00	106.00
200-300 lbs	82.00	100.00
SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.		
40-60 lbs	165.00	185.00
60-80 lbs	222.00	255.00
Nannies/Does: 80-130 lbs	265.00	285.00
130-180 lbs	280.00	310.00
Bucks/Billies: 100-150 lbs	305.00	335.00
150-250 lbs	390.00	420.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA.
HOG AUCTION**

52-56	200-300 lbs	58.00	63.00
	300-350 lbs	52.00	56.00
	350-400 lbs	45.00	49.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	51.00	57.00
	300-350 lbs	47.00	50.00
	350-400 lbs	36.00	40.00
Sows, US1-3			
	400-500 lbs	25.00	28.50
	500-650 lbs	27.00	31.50
Boars	200-300 lbs	35.00	39.00
	300-350 lbs	25.00	31.00
	350-600 lbs	15.00	19.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES
Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LBS	14.00	14.00
APPLES, MAC, 120, US#1	17.00	17.00
APPLES, CORTLAND, 12-3LB, #1	20.00	20.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12OZ	12.00	15.00
CIDER, APPLE 4-1 GAL	24.00	24.00
FIDDLEHEAD FERNS, 10 LB	60.00	60.00
LETTUCE, HYDROPONIC, 12/CS	15.00	15.00
PARSNIPS, 18-1LB	24.00	30.00
RUTABAGAS, 50LBS, WAXED	16.00	16.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9 BU	26.00	28.00
TOMATOES, 11LB, GRHSE, VR	12.00	15.00
TOMS, CHRY, GHSE, ONVINE, 5LB	12.00	14.00

SHIPPED IN

BEETS, NJ, 12 BNCH/CRATE	18.00	18.00
BLUEBERRIES, GA, 12-1 PT/LIDS	18.00	19.00
BOK CHOY, NJ, 1-1/3 BU	24.00	28.00
CARROTS, GA, 16-3LB	20.00	21.00
COLLARDS, NJ, 12-16	13.00	15.00
CUCUMBERS, GA, 1-1/9, MED	20.00	24.00
DANDELIONS, NJ, BU, LOOSE	18.00	18.00
KALE, NJ, BUNCHED, 24	14.00	15.00
LETTUCE, RED LEAF, NJ, 24/CS	16.00	20.00
LEEKs, NJ, 1-1/4 BU, 12S	18.00	20.00
PARSLEY, NJ, 1-1/9 BU, 60S	46.00	50.00
PEACH, GA, YELLOW, 1 LYR, 42	14.00	14.00
RADISHES, NJ, 24/CRATE	15.00	18.00
RHUBARB, MI, 20LB	40.00	40.00
SPINACH, SAVOY, NJ, 1-1/3BU, 24	23.00	24.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, GA, 1/2BU	10.00	16.00
SWISS CHARD, TX, 12/CTN	16.00	17.00
TURNIP GREENS, GA, 12/CTN	13.00	16.00

EAST COAST WHOLESALE HERBS

CHIVES, NH, 1LB	8.00	10.00
CILANTRO, NJ 1/2BRUCECART, 30	8.00	8.00
CIPOLINOS, NY, 10 LBS	16.00	20.00
DILL, NJ, 1/2 BRUCE CRT, 24	13.00	16.00
FENUGREEK (METHI) 24/CTN	22.00	23.00
MINT, NJ, 1/2 BU, 12	10.00	15.00

USDA -RETAIL NE DAIRY

BUTTER, 1 LB	1.49	3.99
CHEESE, NATURAL, 8 OZ	1.66	3.00
CHEESE, NATURAL, 1 LB	2.50	4.49
COTTAGE CHEESE, 16 OZ	3.99	3.99
CREAM CHEESE, 8 OZ	.99	2.58
ICE CREAM, 48-64 OZ	1.99	3.99
MILK, GAL (ALL FAT TESTS)	3.99	3.99
SOUR CREAM, 16 OZ	1.19	2.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 4-6 OZ	.75	1.00
YOGURT, GREEK, 32 OZ	3.99	4.99

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION
Middlefield, CT, June 1, 2015

Bob Calves:	LOW	HIGH
45-60 lbs.	140.00	160.00
61-75 lbs.	355.00	360.00
76-90 lbs.	410.00	420.00
91-105 lbs.	440.00	450.00
106 lbs. & up	460.00	470.00
Farm Calves	480.00	490.00
Starter Calves	60.00	75.00
Veal Calves	175.00	210.00
Open Heifers	140.00	182.50
Beef Heifers	126.00	138.00
Feeder Steers	162.50	167.50
Beef Steers	120.00	152.00
Stock Bulls	157.50	200.00
Beef Bulls	135.00	151.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	70.00	220.00
Lambs	60.00	160.00
Goats each	100.00	440.00
Kid Goats	70.00	150.00
Canners	up to	112.00
Cutters	113.00	116.00
Utility Grade Cows	117.00	120.00
Rabbits each	7.00	32.50
Chickens each	6.00	25.00
Ducks each	n/a	n/a

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	2.38	2.60
LARGE	2.32	2.46
MEDIUM	2.09	2.22

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.80	2.90
LARGE	2.75	2.87
MEDIUM	2.32	2.44

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US #1-2 20-35 lb	170.00	225.00
US#2-3 20-30 lbs	150.00	235.00
30-40 lb	135.00	175.00
40-60 lb	75.00	150.00
60-80 lb	85.00	150.00

USDA RETAIL CHICKEN PRICES

Price per lb.

BREAST, BLNLS/SKNLS	2.49	3.99
BREAST TENDERS	2.49	3.53
BREAST, SPLIT, B/IN	1.99	1.99
WINGS, WHOLE	2.21	3.99

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

43-R. 1955 Massey-Ferguson TO-35. Working tractor. Maintenance records and owner's manual. With 5' bush hog. \$2,500.00. 860-481-0029.

51-R. JD 6200 2WD - Clean. \$11,000.00. JD 4000 - Real clean. \$11,000.00. Kubota L2500 loader, backhoe. 16 ft hay elevator. Hesston 4 star hydraulic tedder. 8A 3008 brush hog, heavy duty, used under 10 acres. \$4,800.00. NH 570 baler with thrower. \$10,500.00. NH 315 baler with thrower. 338 baler with kicker. \$5,500.00. IH round baler RBX 442. JD 300 round baler. \$6,000.00. 203-530-4953.

52-R. INT. #666 Dis. tractor. 3PT. Dual hyd. Nice rubber. Recent clutch, TA, brakes. Good condition. \$7,500.00. 203-623-2956.

53-R. There's still time to buy a Classic...but not much. New federal EPA-NSPS rules will soon eliminate your choice to buy a new Classic. Now is the best time to buy a new Classic. 203-263-2123

www.mywoodfurnace.com

54-R. Irrigation Pump on trailer--Yanmar Diesel-liquid cooled-3cyl-21.5hp/Rainbow SBB 4x3x9.5 pump/Primer with 4" SCAN-Kleen Filter, 4" Foot Valve and 170 Feet of 4"HPDE Suction Pipe. Used one season in 2012-excellent condition. Cost new was \$12,400. Reasonable offers considered. Mark after 6pm: 860-977-6948.

55. John Bean/FMC Model 1229 Sprayer. 16 blade fan, John Bean 10 gpm@400 psi pump, 11 John Bean roll-over nozzles that enable you to spray either dilute or concentrate sprays by simply turning the nozzles over. Turning them half way turns them off. 100 gallon fiberglass tank and fiberglass blower housing (rust free) 3pt. hitch. Also comes with a "Green Guard" One Hand held spray gun---VERY easy to change from fog to stream; can spray with one hand and drive with the other very easily. This John Bean/FMC Sprayer is excellent for spraying vineyards, vegetables and dwarf trees. Operator's Manual recommends tractor with 35-45 HP. Comes with Original Operator's Manual. Sprayer is very simple in design and if you would ever need nozzle discs or a part, I highly recommend 'OESCOINC', formerly known as 'Orchard Equipment and Supply Co.' in Conway, MA. They have 70 plus years' experience with all types and make of Sprayers. We have done business with them for 35 years, and they have excellent knowledge and have helped me obtain whatever I needed accurately and got it to me quickly. Price reduced to \$2,000.00 O.B.O. My email cidermill5@yahoo.com 203-283-4472 leave message.

56. Lely model 'H' Heavy Duty, 3 pt. hitch, PTO Drive fertilizer and lime (and sand in the winter time if needed!) spinner type spreader. Very strongly built, NO CHEAP LIGHTWEIGHT. Just sandblasted, primed and beautifully top-coated with 3 coats of Rustoleum Professional High Performance red enamel-Very Nice. Have both fertilizer and lime (high volume) feed rings. Covers 49 foot swath. Holds 600 lbs of fertilizer and 1/2 ton lime. Easy to adjust feed rates. PRICE REDUCED TO \$375.00 O.B.O. 203-283-4472 leave message; email cidermill5@yahoo.com

57. Rototiller-80". VERY HEAVY DUTY- Made by 'Maschio' of Italy. This is no cheaply made flimsy tiller. 3 pt. hitch and PTO Drive. Has slip clutch. Sold by 'Market Farm Implement' in MA (814-443-1931) Cat. 1 or 2. Has 4 speed adjustable rpm. Very easy to change Rotor speeds by taking off 2 small bolts, removing small cover and by hand, moving the gears to obtain the rotor speed you desire. Little use on my small farm. You will definitely not be disappointed. REDUCED PRICE: \$3,050.00 O.B.O. 203-283-4472, leave message. My email is cidermill5@yahoo.com

41-R. Bulldozing in Eastern Connecticut. Large farm ponds dug. Land clearing for farmers also a specialty. Work done with rootrake to preserve topsoil and remove rocks. Personal service. Will help with permits. Don Kemp 860-546-9500.

(Continued from Page 1)

"The drip system gets the water right to the root cone with no evaporation," she said.

With the help of a state agriculture department grant, Rose also recently purchased a chlorinator that purifies irrigation water pumped from ponds on some of her fields.

Although strawberries are a perennial, Rose said she has to plow the fields under every two years and replace the plants with new ones because they get overtaken by weeds.

"Weeds are our biggest enemy," she said, motioning to several clumps of foot-high specimens that were already crowding out some berry plants.

Picking berries is very labor-intensive and the fruit is easily damaged if not plucked gently off the plant. Rose said a critical element of her success is the skill of her crew of workers that come to Connecticut every year from the same town in Central Mexico.

About 15 workers live on her farm from April to November, not only to harvest berries and vegetables but to plant, prune, staff farmer's markets, drive hayride tractors and bake fruit pies.

Several of the men (pictured below) have been working there for more than 15 years. Rose has visited them in winter in Mexico many times, and will again next year for the wedding of one of the worker's sons.

"They leave their families behind because they can make a better living here," Rose said as she dismissed the crew for the day. "And if I didn't have these men, I wouldn't be here."

**FOR SALE**

58. IH 886 diesel tractor, ONLY 2550 hours. Excellent T/A, 16.9-38 tires with plenty of rubber. 2 remotes. Open cab w/ Glass windshield. Comes with IH Mount-o-Matic Loader with new bucket-easy on, easy off. 2 PTO's. New coolant filter with conditioner. New Air Filter. 80-90 HP, Rear wheel weights. 50 gallon fuel tank. 3 pt. hitch. Very Nice Find. PRICE REDUCED TO \$11,000.00. My email, cidermill5@yahoo.com 203-283-4472 Thanks.

59-R. Two (2) Tennessee Walker Horses for Sale: JIGGER: Black horse- is a stunning six year old TWH, who stands at 15hh not to mention, a total dream!!! He has a 4 beat gait, and was born for the trails! He is an amazing horse! Has the funniest personality and loves children! Jigger is a great trail partner for the whole family to enjoy! DC: Tobiano horse - is a seven year old black and white TWH who stands at 15hh, and screams attention! DC is a total dream, with his amazing coloring, yet so kind and gentle. He's very well-mannered and loves to be pampered. He has a 4 beat gait and is born for the trails. It breaks my heart to sell these horses, but sadly with everything going on, I haven't had enough time for them, and hate to see them just sit in their stalls the whole summer, then being out on the trails! Both horses have encountered dogs, cats, cows, bulls, deer, pigs, and even ATV's! And are traffic safe! I love both horses so much, only selling to good homes! Asking \$6,500 (OBO) for each horse. Please call Sam for more info at 203-906-6303.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

GREENHOUSE GROWING IS FOCUS OF SEMINAR IN NEW HAVEN

New or experienced greenhouse growers interested in creative ways to grow vegetables indoors are invited to attend a June 23 seminar at the Connecticut Agriculture Experimental Station (CAES) in New Haven.

The seminar will be held from 9:30 a.m., to 4 p.m. at Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington Street, New Haven.

The event is sponsored by the CT Greenhouse Growers Association, UConn Extension, CAES, the state Dept. of Agriculture and the USDA Risk Management Agency.

Topics include Conventional and Organic Fertilization of Hydroponic Lettuce; Maintaining Root Health in Hydroponic Systems; Yield Response to Supplemental Lighting; Risk of Foodborne Pathogens; an overview of CropKing Hydroponic Food Production Systems, and Opportunities for the Greenhouse Industry in Connecticut from Flowers to Food.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky will give remarks during lunch and the day will conclude with a panel discussion with several greenhouse growers.

Registration before June 15 is \$25 per person. After June 15 or at the door is \$30 per person.

Contact Susan Pronovost, Executive Director, CT Greenhouse Growers Association at 203-261-9067 or:

ConnGreen@aol.com

Top right: Strawberries ripening in the field and (right) ready for sale at Jones Family Farm in Shelton, considered the oldest strawberry grower in the state.

Below: A graphic that is part of the Department of Agriculture's month-long promotion of Connecticut's strawberry crop and growers.



CONNECTICUT GROWN
Strawberries
PICK YOUR OWN

CLICK HERE FOR A PATCH NEAR YOU



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